

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A cover plate for a switch, receptacle or outlet device of a wall comprising:
  - a first plate member having a forward surface;
  - a second plate member having a thickness of from 1/32 of an inch or more coupled to the first plate member and overlaying the forward surface of the first plate member, the second plate member having a different configuration from that of the first plate member so that at least a portion of the forward surface of the first plate member is exposed, the second plate being visually distinct from the first plate member; and wherein at least one of the first and second plate members has an opening to facilitate access of the device of the wall when the cover plate is mounted thereto.
2. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:
  - the first and second plate members each have a forward surface that is different from the other to provide a visually perceptible contrast between the first and second plate members.
3. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:
  - the first and second plate members each have a forward surface that is provided with a different surface finish from the other to provide a visual perceptible contrast between the first and second plate members.

4. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the second plate member has a thickness of from 1/16 of an inch or more.

5. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the different configuration of the second plate member is provided at least one of a cutout or aperture formed through the thickness of the second plate member.

6. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the plate members are formed of a metal or metal alloy.

7. The cover plate of claim 1, further comprising:

a third plate member that overlays and is coupled to the first and second plate members, the third plate member having a configuration that is different from that of the first and second plate members so that at least a portion of the forward surface of each of the first and second plate members is exposed, the third plate member being visibly distinct from the first and second plate members.

8. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second plate members are formed from at least one of copper, steel, carbon steel, aluminum, bronze, nickel, tin, iron, brass, and alloys of such materials, wood, polymeric materials, leather, fabric, composite materials, clays, ceramics and glass.

9. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

each of the first and second plate members is opaque.

10. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

one of the plate members has a matte forward surface and the other plate member has a non-matte forward surface.

11. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second plate members each have sufficient thickness to provide a visually perceptible layered appearance.

12. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second plate members are coupled together with a very high bond adhesive tape.

13. A cover plate for a switch, receptacle or outlet device of a wall comprising:

a first plate member having a forward surface;

a second plate member having a thickness of from 1/32 of an inch or more coupled to the first plate member and overlaying the forward surface of the first plate member, the second plate member having a different configuration from that of the first plate member so that at least a portion of the forward surface of the first plate member is exposed, the second plate member having a sufficient thickness to provide a readily perceptible side edge and being visually distinct from the first plate member; and wherein

at least one of the first and second plate members has an opening to facilitate access of the switch or receptacle of the wall when the cover plate is mounted thereto.

14. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein:

the first and second plate members each have a forward surface that is different from the other to provide a visually perceptible contrast between the first and second plate members.

15. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein:

the first and second plate members each have a forward surface that is provided with a different surface finish from the other to provide a visual perceptible contrast between the first and second plate members.

16. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein:

the second plate member has a thickness of from 1/16 of an inch or more.

17. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein:

the different configuration of the second plate member is provided by at least one of a cutout or aperture formed through the thickness of the second plate member.

18. The cover plate of claim 13, further comprising:

a third plate member that overlays the first and second plate members, the third plate member having a configuration that is different from that of the first and second plate members so that at least a portion of the forward surface of each of the first and second plate members is exposed, the third plate member having a sufficient thickness to provide a visually perceptible layered appearance.

19. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein:

one of the plate members has a matte forward surface and the other plate member has a non-matte forward surface.

20. A cover plate for a switch, receptacle or outlet device of a wall comprising:

a first plate member having a forward surface;

a second plate member coupled to the first plate member and overlaying the forward surface of the first plate member, the second plate member having a different configuration from that of the first plate member so that at least a portion of the forward surface of the first plate member is exposed, the first and second plate members each have a forward surface that is provided with a different surface finish from the other to provide a visual perceptible surface contrast between the first and second plate members, and the second plate member having a thickness of from 1/32 of an inch or more to provide a readily perceptible side edge and being visually distinct from the first plate member; and wherein

at least one of the first and second plate members has an opening to facilitate access of the switch or receptacle of the wall when the cover plate is mounted thereto.